

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2914

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJQFT: PERONISTS AGREE TO TRUCE IN CORDOBA

REF BA 5168

1. SUMMARY. SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT LASTIRI MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PATCHING UP THE INTERNAL PERONIST CONFLICT IN CORDOBA PROVINCE WHICH WAS MARKED BY SEVERAL ARMED CONFRONTATIONS IN LABOR SECTOR IN RECENT DAYS. WARRING FACTIONS HAVE AGREED TO HOLD NEW ELECTIONS IN CORDOBA CGT AND TO REUNIFICATION OF THE PERONIST 62 ORGANIZATIONS. THIS DOES NOT SOLVE PROBLEM IN PROVINCE, HOWEVER, FOR TOSCO AND OTHERS ARE OUTSIDE RANKS OF PERONISM AND REMAIN RECALCITRANT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 17 LASTIRI AND MINFIN GELBARD MET WITH CORDOBA GOVERNOR OBREGON CANO, VICE GOVERNOR ATILIO LOPEZ, CGT SEC GEN JOSE RUCCI AND METALWORKER UNION BOSS LORENZO MIGUEL IN LAST DITCH EFFORT TO RESOLVE INTERNAL PERONIST CONFLICT WHICH THREATENED GOA INTERVENTION OF CORDOBA PROVINCE. MEETING WHICH LASTED SEVERAL HOURS RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO UNIFY LEGALISTA AND ORTODOXO PERONIST SECTORS OF CORDOBA'S LABORS MOVEMENT. DATE WAS NOT SET FOR LOCAL CGT ELECTIONS, BUT AT JULY 18 MEETING OF NATIONAL 62 ORGANIZATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH LOPEZ AND OTHER CORDOBA LABOR LEADERS, IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLENARY MEETING OF 62 BLOC IN CORDOBA ON JULY 27. THEME WILL BE

"PERON TO POWER."

3. UPON CONCLUSION OF MEETING AT PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE IN OLIVOS, LOPEZ AND RUCCI POSED FOR HANDCLASPING PHOTOS AND BOTH TOLD PRESS THAT SERIOUS PERONIST DIVISIONS NEVER REALLY EXISTED IN CORDOBA AND THAT ALL PERONISTS WERE UNITED BEHIND PERON. OBREGON CANO, EQUALLY WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK, HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD PRESS THAT CONFLICT WAS OF INTERNAL UNION NATURE AND NOT POLITICAL.

4. COMMENT. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THESE PERONIST ANTAGONISTS TRULY BELIEVE THAT THEIR DEEP-ROOTED DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED IN MORE THAN PAPER-PEACE FASHION. THE CHOICE PRESENTED OBREGON CANO AND LOPEZ WAS APPARENTLY RESTRICTED TO EITHER AGREEING TO TRUCE OR FACING CONSEQUENCE OF GOA INTERVENTION. LATTER WOULD HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY PLEASED MARXIST CORDOBA LABOR LEADER AGUSTIN TOSCO AND HIS POWERFUL ALLY AUTOWORKER CHIEFTAN RENE SALAMANCA WHO ARE VIOLENTLY OPPOSED TO RUCCI AND NATIONAL LABOR LEADERSHIP, AND TO ONLY LESSER DEGREE TO THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT ITSELF. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS REMAINING ARE: THE STRATEGY TO BE ADOPTED BY THE TOSCO-SALAMANCA FORCES, WHICH REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT ALBEIT MINORITY PERCENTAGE OF CORDOBA UNIONS, AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH LOPEZ CAN CONTROL HIS OWN LEGALISTA FOLLOWERS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE AFFINITY WITH TOSCO AND PROFUND DISLIKE FOR RUCCI AND THE BUENOS AIRES LEADERSHIP OF THE CGT. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE PERONISTS OF CORDOBA LABOR WILL BE UNIFIED, BUT THE POWER OF THE NON-PERONIST LEFT AND THE TENUOUS NATURE OF THE PAPER-THIN PERONIST TRUCE DG NOT AUGUR WELL FOR PEACE IN DORDOBA FOR ANY APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF TIME. EVEN PERON'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER IS NOT LIKELY TO PROVIDE MORE THAN AN ASPIRIN REMEDY FOR A DEEP-SEATED ILLNESS.
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